

January 14, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I want to use this opportunity to convey my support for the settlement reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice last year. This settlement is definitely in the public's interest and should continued to be backed by the federal government.

The settlement is far-reaching and requires many changes by Microsoft. Microsoft will design future versions of Windows to provide a mechanism to make it easy for computer makers, consumers and software developers to promote non-Microsoft software within Windows. Under this provision, consumers will have the freedom to choose to change their computer's configuration at any time. And to assure compliance, Microsoft will be monitored by a Technical Committee comprised of three experts in software engineering.

Moving forward and concluding this case will give both sides the opportunity to shift resources to other needs. Microsoft can focus on new software development while the government can focus on national security and fighting the recession. I commend your office's efforts to this point in settling this case and hope your support of the settlement continues.

Sincerely,



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